

**NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS  
LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS**

**LESSON GUIDE: 4**

**HOURS: 1.5**

**TITLE: UTILITARIANISM/CONSEQUENTIAL REASONING**

**I. Learning Objectives**

**A. Reading Objectives:**

1. The student will comprehend the moral standard of utilitarianism.
2. The student will know and define the difference between the quantity and quality of "utility."
3. The student will comprehend the difference between "act" utilitarianism and "rule" utilitarianism.
4. The student will recognize utilitarianism as a consequentialist moral theory.
5. The student will comprehend the major differences between Bentham and Mill's versions of utilitarianism.

**B. Discussion Objectives:**

1. The student will comprehend the terms "audience" and "utility" as related to utilitarianism.
2. The student will comprehend the considerations for formulating a rule and apply them by identifying or creating a rule or rules based on a given case.
3. The student will comprehend and use the Checklist for Applying Rule Utilitarianism and the Checklist for Applying Act Utilitarianism in a given case.
4. The student will comprehend the distinction between "lower" and "higher" pleasures.
5. The student will comprehend and apply the utilitarian theory to the economic system of capitalism.
6. Apply the utilitarian standard to an analysis of conduct in specific cases.

**II. References and Texts**

A. Instructor References:

1. Ethics and the Military Profession, Chapter 3A
2. Case Studies in Military Ethics, Chapter 2
3. Just and Unjust Wars, pp. 151-159
4. USNA Blackboard at <http://www.blackboard.usna.edu/>
5. Relativism Web Resources:
  - a. <http://www.friesian.com/relative.htm>
  - b. <http://homepage.ntlworld.com/g.mccaughan/g/essays/utility.html>
  - c. <http://www.utilitarian.org/faq.html#will>

B. Student Texts:

1. Ethics and the Military Profession, Chapter 3A
2. "Hiroshima: The First Use of Nuclear Weapons," Case Studies in Military Ethics, pp. 59-60

III. Instructional Aids

A. Instructor-prepared transparencies/overhead projector or PowerPoint slides/projection system

B. VCR/Monitor or projection system

C. Video Segments (optional):

1. A Few Good Men
2. The Rock (USNA video clip)
3. U-571 (USNA video clip)
4. Crimson Tide (USNA video clip)
5. Air Force One (USNA video clip)
6. Extreme Measures (USNA video clip)
7. Dr. Strangelove (USNA video clip)